

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF BURLINGTON  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
August 2, 2010

The City Council of the City of Burlington held a regularly scheduled work session at the John Robert Kernodle Senior Activity Center, 1535 South Mebane Street, Burlington, N.C., on August 2, 2010, at 7 p.m.

Councilmembers present: Mayor Ronnie K. Wall, Mayor Pro Tem David Huffman, Councilmembers James Butler, Stephen M. Ross and Celo Faucette

Councilmembers absent: None

Harold Owen, City Manager, present

Robert M. Ward, City Attorney, present

Jondeen D. Terry, City Clerk, present

Other Staff Present: Scott Bibler, Rodger Burden, Jason Geary, Bob Harkrader, Nolan Kirkman, Mike Nunn, Bob Patterson, Peggy Reece and Lanny Rhew

Others Present: Keith Lewis and Jody Lewis, MAB Engineering, Richard Parker

Media Present: Chris Lavender, Times-News; Tom Boney, Alamance News

A) Rockwood Avenue Extension Study

Public Works Director Nolan Kirkman stated he was following up due to previous interest of Council. He introduced the engineering consultants from MAB that did the study, Mr. Jody Lewis and Mr. Keith Lewis. Mr. Jody Lewis reviewed the project study area described existing conditions and reviewed initial improvements to make the roadway safe and efficient for the traveling public.

Mr. Keith Lewis explained that on the first portion going north, they concentrated on providing a consistent corridor, three lanes (two travel lanes plus a turn lane), bike lanes and sidewalks. He mentioned that one concern with the project was the large drainage ditch. He said that on the Rockwood Avenue extension, they would switch back to two travel lanes plus a wide grass median with bike lanes on each side.

Below are the subtotals for the design, right-of-way and construction cost estimates:

Rockwood widening and extension   \$3,300,000  
Webb Avenue intersection improvements   \$115,000  
Front Street intersection improvements   \$136,000  
Church Street improvements   \$875,000

Councilmember Butler pointed out that the above figures did not include moving utilities.

Mr. Kirkman said staff had done preliminary cost estimates and that it could add approximately \$400,000 to the total numbers.

Councilmember Butler asked about the timeline and Mr. Kirkman said the first step would most likely be to get feedback from the public.

Mr. Keith Lewis said survey and design would take six months or more depending on funding sources. He explained that if federal money were used (possibly including CDBG), it would take an additional 12 to 18 months for an environmental assessment. Mr. Kirkman said the construction could take up to 18 months so the range could be anywhere from 2 years to 3.5 years depending on the funding sources.

City Manager Owen said 30 months might be more accurate (not withstanding the potential impact of the environmental assessment). He said there were storm water issues to be addressed.

Mr. Kirkman indicated that the cost did not include a new water line on Rockwood which was estimated by staff to be \$200,000.

Mayor Wall asked if the total cost would be approximately \$4.4 million, and Mr. Keith Lewis answered yes.

Mr. Owen said the City hoped to have NCDOT involvement.

Mr. Owen said the Rural Retreat extension would be discussed at the September work session.

#### B) Wi-Fi Update

Information Technology Director Rodger Burden reported that wireless internet access would be available by September 1, 2010. He said it would cover a 16-block area downtown from Morehead Street and Webb Avenue to Lexington Avenue and Church Street. The wireless connections will also be available at the City Park, parking areas, and at Thataways. Mr. Burden said the project was paid for with stimulus funds. He said the wireless connects would be primarily available outdoors and that there may be problems when going through walls.

City Manager Owen said it would allow police and fire personnel to respond more quickly.

C) Municipal Building Security

Mr. Burden introduced Scott Bibler, network engineer. He explained that IT had been implementing a physical security system at City Hall and that they were almost ready to go live with the system. He said the following changes would be implemented in the next few days:

Entrance Change

At the parking lot level (back of building) the center entrance door will be for public access and the two outer entrance doors (to Inspections and Planning) will be used for City Hall employee access by electronic key-fobs or RF-ID badges.

Hallway Change

Security doors leading down the upper and lower hallways (from the elevator heading west or east) will be locked and will require those who do not work in the Municipal building to push a button to be buzzed in by the department they are visiting.

Monitoring Change

Video security cameras will be in operation in public areas inside City Hall and in the parking lot. The cameras leading down the hallways will also record audio.

Mr. Owen said security in the Council chamber would be implemented soon.

D) Committee Reports

Councilmember Butler, Alamance County Transportation Authority (ACTA) representative, made the following report:

- Meeting held July 21, 2010.
- Welcomed newest board member Bob Byrd.
- Elected officers and Councilmember Butler will take the helm for 2010-2011 as Chair.
- Discussed two planning activities in which ACTA is currently involved. LCP or Local Coordinated Plan (two-year study) is being funded by the MPO. This is required to continue to get 5310, 5316, and 5317 funds. It is basically a community-needs assessment and is broad in scope.

- The more comprehensive plan or CTSP Community Transportation Service Plan (five-year study) must be conducted in order for ACTA to continue to receive funding by the state DOT and other federal monies. This plan will cost approximately \$80,000 and it is funded 90% by the state with a 10% local match from ACTA. We are in the process of determining how this match will be paid. This is a requirement to continue to receive ROAP (Rural Operating Assistance Program) and EDTAP (Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program) funds as well as 5311 monies. It is a 6 to 10 month process and is very comprehensive and provides the basis for regionalization or consolidation.
- The CTSP study is extremely vital to ACTA as the majority of their funding (currently over \$600,000) will come from the sources tied to this plan. The local misnomer is that ACTA is heavily subsidized by the county. In reality the county only provides about \$130,000 of ACTA's total budget.
- Councilmember Butler stressed that ACTA is very important to help with transportation for the elderly and handicapped.
- Councilmember Ross agreed that ACTA funds are extremely important.

Councilmembers Huffman and Faucette attended the Chamber's Economic Development committee meeting.

Mayor Wall attended the following meetings:

- Piedmont Triad Council of Governments.
- COG merger committee.
- COG merger sub-committee which consists of four people from each COG to iron out details like dues, leadership, etc. Decisions will eventually be made by a vote of all the member cities.

#### E) Questions Concerning City Council Agenda

There were no questions concerning the agenda.

#### F) City Manager Comments

- Council will leave from City Hall to attend National Night Out functions on Tuesday, August 3, 2010, at 5:30 PM. Dress is casual.

- Mr. Owen asked Council to support Mr. Blue's job with Burlington Housing Authority. Mr. Blue is engaging with young people. City of Burlington's annual cost for his salary is \$3,000.
- Legislation concerning collective bargaining has not changed. Councilmember Faucette suggested calling legislators again.
- Possible photo opportunity and groundbreaking Friday, August 6, 2010, at Alamance Crossing West.

### Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.

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Jondeen D. Terry  
City Clerk